

Clean Copy of Amended Claims 1, 7 and 18.

E¹ --1 (three times amended). A fusion protein presenting epitopes of at least two autoantigens wherein said autoantigens are selected from the group consisting of: preproinsulin (PPINS), glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD65) and islet cell antigen (IA2), wherein said epitopes are connected with a linker peptide, wherein said linker peptide comprises nine or more amino acid residues, said fusion protein being able to bind to a solid phase.--

E² --7 (twice amended). A cDNA encoding the fusion protein according to claim 1 wherein said cDNA comprises nucleotide sequences encoding epitopes of at least two autoantigens wherein said autoantigens are selected from the group consisting of: preproinsulin (PPINS), glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD65) and islet cell antigen (IA2).--

E³ --18 (amended). A fusion protein presenting epitopes of at least two autoantigens selected from the group consisting of glutamic acid decarboxylase, islet cell antigen and preproinsulin, wherein said fusion protein comprises a label and a linker peptide wherein said linker peptide comprises nine or more amino acid residues.--

New Claims 21-28

--21 (new). The fusion protein of claim 1 wherein six or more amino acid residues of said linker peptide are lysine.

--22 (new). The fusion protein of claim 21 wherein said linker peptide is selected from the group consisting of KKPRPRKKK (SEQ ID NO:2) and KKKRSRKKK (SEQ ID NO:4).--

--23 (new). The fusion protein of claim 1 wherein said linker peptide is labeled with a member of an affinity binding pair which enables binding of said fusion protein to said solid phase.--

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--24 (new). The fusion protein of claim 23 wherein said affinity binding pair is biotin-streptavidin.--

--25 (new). The fusion protein of claim 18 wherein six or more amino acid residues of said linker peptide are lysine.

--26 (new). The fusion protein of claim 25 wherein said linker peptide is selected from the group consisting of KKPRPRKKK (SEQ ID NO:2) and KKKRSRKKK (SEQ ID NO:4).--

--27 (new). The fusion protein of claim 18 wherein said linker peptide is labeled with a member of an affinity binding pair which enables binding of said fusion protein to said solid phase.--

--28 (new). The fusion protein of claim 27 wherein said affinity binding pair is biotin-streptavidin.--